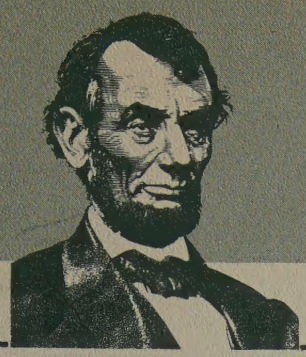


Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1436 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA October, 1957

NATIONAL POLITICS—DECEMBER 1860

In December 1860 three prominent men in public affairs were James Buchanan, the President of the United States; Abraham Lincoln, the president-elect; and Duff Green, a southern political leader of long standing. All three of these men had been residents of Hardin County, Kentucky, and for several months during the year 1813 all three were living at the same time within that county's limits.

It is generally known that the first seven years of Lincoln's life were spent in original Hardin County, but the fact is seldom mentioned that James Buchanan, the future fifteenth president, was also a resident of that county in the year 1813 when he came to Elizabethtown, to defend his father's interests in numerous land suits that were being tried before the Hardin County court.

Duff Green came to Elizabethtown in the latter part of the year 1812 and opened a school. While Green resided in Elizabethtown he married Lucretia Edwards, a sister of Illinois Governor Ninian Edwards. Mrs. Green's nephew, Ninian W. Edwards and Abraham Lincoln married sisters and this family alliance led to a warm personal friendship between Mr. Lincoln and General Green. This friendship was strengthened when Lincoln came to Washington in 1847 as a member of Congress and took up his residence in Carroll Place, then known as "Green's Row" in order that he might be near General Green and his wife near Mrs. Green.

Green left Elizabethtown in the year 1817 and went to Washington, D. C. where he soon became a favorite of President Andrew Jackson, and it is generally known that he was a confidential advisor of the President. During Jackson's first term Green published the administration newspaper *The United States Telegram.*

While residing at the capital city, Green shared a great amount of patronage and on one occasion he visited London and interviewed a good portion of the British cabinet and suggested his ideas of international policy. He was credited with immense party power, but with Jackson's alienation of John C. Calhoun, he took sides with the Vice President. He supported Henry Clay for the presidency in 1832 and Mr. Calhoun in 1836, becoming for many years a political leader of the South.

Duff Green

Reproduced from the Collections of the Library of Congress.

James Buchanan know of the friendly relations that had existed between Green and Lincoln, and, being a Democrat and pro-slavery and knowing of Green's zeal for the southern cause, he selected him as his envoy to Springfield with an urgent invitation to Lincoln to come immediately to the capital, with assurances that he would be received and treated with all due respect. The object of the invitation which Green explained to Lincoln was that they might consult and act in concert to "save the Union without bloodshed."

Such an invitation by Buchanan, whether the proposition came by authority or not, was quite a problem to Lincoln. He could not publicly question the sincerity of the envoy or the nature of his mission. The scheme was adroitly planned and General Green's whole aim was to induce Lincoln to assume the responsibility of the revolt in the South. Such a maneuver by Buchanan and Green, had it proved successful, would have been a great detriment to Lincoln upon his induction to the office of the presidency.

In reply to Lincoln's inquiry, "What will satisfy the South?" Mr. Green placed in his hands a copy of Mr. Crittenden's resolutions. Green hoped to obtain from Lincoln a letter which could be used in the southern states to offset the state convention and Cooper Institute speeches of the president-elect in which he emphatically stated "this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free." Such a statement, Green contended, led the South to believe that Lincoln and his party meant to destroy the institution of slavery but Green hoped to satisfy the South that they had no reason to fear any attempts to emancipate their slaves.

In this effort Green failed because Lincoln wrote him a carefully worded letter, dated December 28, 1860:

"I do not desire any amendment of the Constitution. Recognizing, however, that questions of such amendment rightfully belong to the American people, I should not feel justified nor inclined to withhold from them if I could a fair opportunity of expressing their will thereon through either of the modes prescribed in the instrument.

"In addition I declare that the maintenance inviolate

of the rights of the States, and especially the right of each State to order and control its own domestic institutions according to its own judgment exclusively, is essential to that balance of powers on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depend; and I denounce the lawless invasion by armed force of the soil of any State or Territory, no matter under what pretext, as the gravest of crimes.

"I am greatly averse to writing anything for the public at this time; and I consent to the publication of this only upon the condition that six of the twelve United States senators for the States of Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, and Texas shall sign their names to what is written on this sheet below my name, and allow the whole to be published together."

The sheet below Lincoln's signature bore the following statement:

"We recommend to the people of the States we represent respectively, to suspend all action for dismemberment of the Union, at least until some act deemed to be violate of our rights shall be done by the incoming administration."

Lincoln however, did not place the letter in Green's hands but he sent it to Senator Lyman Trumbull at Washington with the following instructions:

"General Duff Green is out here endeavoring to draw a letter out of me. I have written one which herewith I inclose to you, and which I believe could not be used to our disadvantage. Still, if on consultation with our discreet friends you conclude that it may do us harm, do not deliver it. You need not mention that the second clause of the letter is copied from the Chicago Platform. If, on consultation, our friends, including yourself, think it can do no harm, keep a copy and deliver the letter to General Green."

While no one can say definitely, it is believed that this letter was delivered to Green, or perhaps Trumbull handed Green a copy under the date of December 31. Green wrote Lincoln a letter bearing the date January 7, 1861, stating that "he had received . . . your letter of the 31st Dec. I regret your unwillingness to recommend an amendment to the constitution which will arrest the progress of secession . . ."

When the proposition was first submitted to Lincoln, Green was greatly encouraged in his belief that Lincoln would accept in order to ease the unfavorable sentiment that was daily growing in the South as a result of his election. One thing, however, interfered with the plan; Lincoln had an appointment with Senator Ben Wade whom he was expecting by every train. Green probably assumed that he would start to Washington as soon as he had met that appointment. Senator Wade eventually came and, upon hearing of Lincoln's invitation to Washington, he immediately opposed such a trip. Lincoln in due time declined Buchanan's invitation.

Nothing further resulted from Green's mission to Springfield except a long letter from Washington, dated January 6, 1861 which appeared in the January 8, 1861 issue of *The New York Herald.* In this letter Green's visit and failure are dealt with in the "vaguest generalities." In fact, in view of Lincoln's skillful answer, Green and Buchanan were no longer eager to give publicity to those who should assume responsibility for the southern revolt.

A wrong decision here might have changed the whole aspect of Lincoln's administration. Lincoln handled the situation in the best possible manner without openly antagonizing Green and the prominent political friends of Buchanan. These maneuvers indicate the tremendous pressure which was exerted on Lincoln to force him to abandon his political philosophy, the very foundation stones upon which his party was elected.

Nevertheless, it is an interesting coincidence that all three of these key figures had spent a portion of their early years in Hardin County, Kentucky.

LINCOLN AND GREEN—APRIL 1865

The personal friendship between Lincoln and Green continued until April 5, 1865, the date of their last meeting which took place on board the *Malvern,* anchored at Richmond, Virginia.

On April 4, Lincoln had visited the evacuated city of Richmond and he came on board Admiral David D. Porter's flagship to rest after a trying day in the captured city.

On the following morning a man appeared on the shore dressed in gray homespun, carrying a large staff about six feet long. This staff could have been used for a very effective weapon. He hailed the boat and upon being asked who he was and what he wanted he said: "I am Duff Green, and I want to see Abraham Lincoln, and my business concerns myself alone." Just as he was about to be sent away, Lincoln said, "Duff is an old friend of mine, and I would like to talk to him."

Before entering the President's quarters. Green was requested to put aside his staff, which he did. When he approached the President, Lincoln sprang to his feet, and extending his hand exclaimed, "My dear old friend, can I do anything for you?"

Green refused to shake Lincoln's hand stating that now he was his enemy. In the presence of General Godfrey Weitzel, Colonel William H. Crook, Admiral Porter and others a heated outburst of condemnation came from Green.

The President kept cool, held back his anger and when Green came around to the purpose of his visit he said: "I would like, sir, to go to my friends," whereupon the President asked General Weitzel to "please give Mr. Green a pass to go to his friends." Green was then put in a boat and was taken to shore.

Later Lincoln mentioned to Colonel Crook that Duff Green was rather angry but he said, "I guess he will get over it."

CIPHER CODES

A fascinating phase of Civil War history is a study of the communication systems of the Union and Confederate governments. As many secret messages were sent out over the telegraph lines it was necessary for both governments to set up cipher codes and keys for translation. By modern methods these codes could be cracked by experts today without any difficulty, and with little delay.

President Lincoln's telegrams were often reduced to code before they were sent out over the wires. David Homer Bates in his book *Lincoln In The Telegraph Office,* New York, The Century Co., 1907, devoted two informative chapters to a discussion of "Cipher-codes and Messages" and "Confederate Cipher-codes and Intercepted Dispatches." According to Bates, Lincoln, a frequent visitor to the telegraph office in the War Department, took a very personal interest in the decoding of confiscated Confederate cipher dispatches that were brought to the War Department for translation.

For a great many years the Foundation has had in its manuscript files two cipher dispatches supposedly sent by General Pierre G. T. Beauregard and Jefferson Davis. Repeated efforts to authenticate these dispatches have proved futile. While they have all the earmarks of authentic documents no effort is being made to support their genuineness. Certainly, bogus documents like these were fabricated for one reason or another, following the Civil War. Because one of them relates to Lincoln, and the other illustrates a different method of coding, the dispatches are reproduced in their entirety.

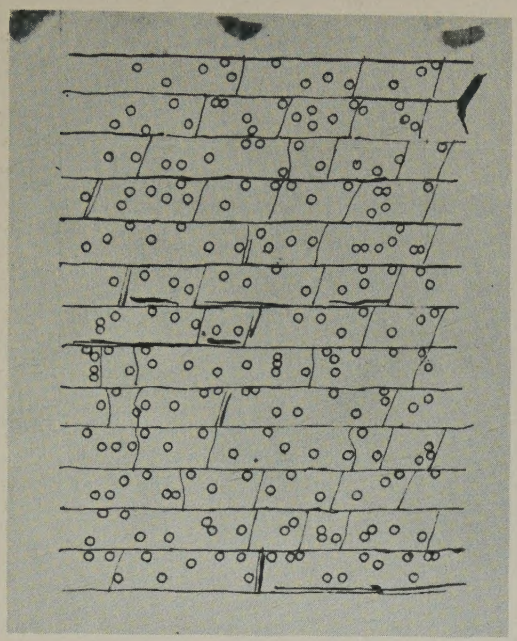
The earliest dispatch bears no date. Written on a blue transparent paper, the sheet apparently was placed over the printed scrambled alphabet and circles were drawn around the letters needed to spell the words of the message. Evidently the Confederacy changed the arrangement of the scrambled letters quite frequently.

Translated the message reads: "I shal cros the river above Little Falls on Sunday at two AM. Signal red and white rockets from Turner's Hill. For God's Sake don't fail us. Fire the city at all points agreed on at once. Despatch Lincoln and Scott as you suggest and let the execution of our plot be perfect. Beauregard."

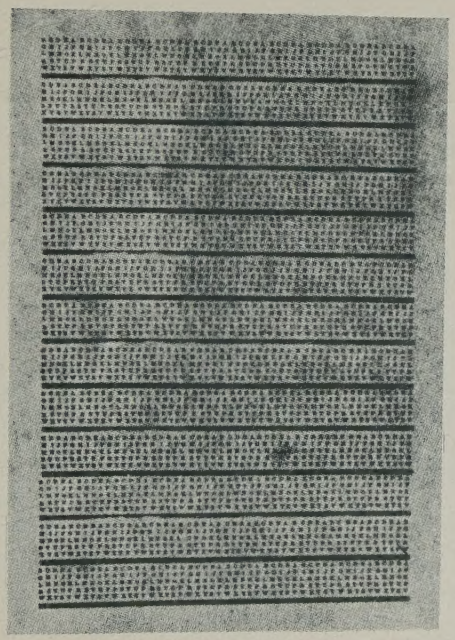
The cipher message supposedly sent by Jefferson Davis was copied on a printed telegraph form from the South-Western Telegraph Company dated January 15, 1863 at Richmond, Virginia, and addressed to General Braxton Bragg at Tullahoma. Bragg received the tele-

gram a day after it was sent. Translated on the reverse side of the sheet it reads: "For the present all which seems practicable is to select a strong position and fortifying it to wait for attack. Should the enemy attempt to pass you with his whole force your chances will be even better. If I could furnish reinforcements to your glorious Army which would enable them to crown their recent victory it would at once be done. To send forward absentees and recruits should be vigorously pressed as a best reliance for additional force. Jeffn. Davis."

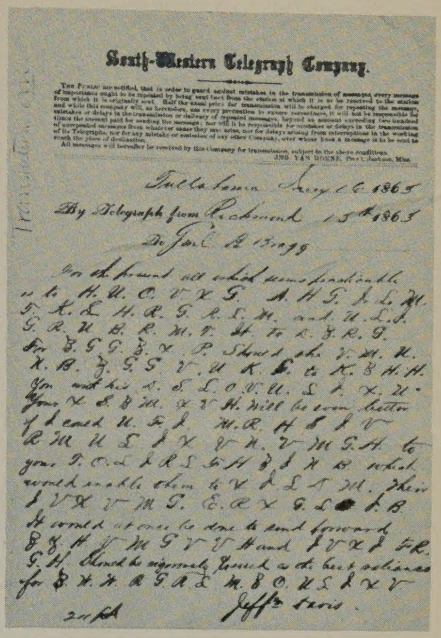
President Lincoln no doubt would have considered the Davis-Bragg message significant if it had been sent to the War Department for translation. His reaction to the Beauregard plot, if the coded message had been intercepted, would of course be a matter of conjecture.



Cipher dispatch supposedly sent by General Pierre G. T. Beauregard.



Scrambled Alphabet used to decode Beauregard's cipher dispatch.



Cipher message supposedly sent to General Braxton Bragg by Jefferson Davis.

"A VERY AGREEABLE AFTERNOON"

President Lincoln and four or five members of the White House staff spent a very agreeable Thursday afternoon on May 9, 1861 at the Washington Navy Yard Barracks. They were the guests of the Seventy-First Regiment, made up of New York volunteers. The entertainment consisted of a band concert, an exhibition of artillery gunnery, a dress parade and a reception.

Dodworth's Celebrated 71st Regiment Band had among its members several excellent musicians. While stationed in Washington, they often gave concerts in their Navy Yard Barracks.

The concert which Lincoln attended was held in one of the large storerooms in the Navy Yard, and some three of four hundred invited guests made the occasion a great success. The concert began at three o'clock, and the band played twelve selections. The program listed Mr. Harvey Dodworth as the band leader and Mr. Harrison Millard as the director.

The band featured the works of Foster, Verdi, Mendelssohn, Key (Star Spangled Banner), and a number of Millard compositions.

Once the concert was over the guests went aboard one of the ships to witness gunnery practice. Several shots were fired from a large Dahlgren gun mounted on the shore. The target, about twently-five or thirty feet square, was located in the river some thirteen hundred yards, "just the distance at which the nearest battery was built to Fort Sumter."

The guests would hear an explosion and as quickly as possible see the shot (a shell eleven inches in diameter) flying through the air about two-thirds of the distance to the target. The eye could distinctly follow the shell until it struck, then see its ricochet cast up the spray, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven or eight times.

Leaving the ship, the President and his party saw the 71st Regiment on dress parade.

That evening, although Lincoln likely did not attend, a military reception was held at the Navy Yard. Lincoln's private secretary, John G. Nicolay, was present and he remarked that "For once the few ladies present had every and ample opportunity to gratify their penchant for admiring brass buttons."

CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY—1957

Selections approved by a Bibliography Committee consisting of the following members: Arnold Gates, 288 New Hyde Park Road, Garden City, N. Y.; Carl Haverlin, 2 Masterson Road, Bronxville, N. Y.; E. B. Long, 708 North Kenilworth Ave., Oak Park, Ill.; Richard F. Lufkin, 45 Milk Street, Boston, 9, Mass.; Ralph G. Newman, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago 11, Ill.; William E. Taylor, Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn.; William H. Townsend, 310 First National Bank Bldg., Lexington 3, Ky.; and Clyde C. Walton, Jr., Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Ill.

New items available for consideration may be sent to the above addresses or to the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN BOOK SHOP 1957-9

In times like the present/men should utter nothing/for which they would not willingly/be responsible through/time and in eternity/(Lincoln photo)/Abraham Lincoln . . ./Ralph G. Newman/(Cover title).

Folder, paper, (double fold), 8½" x 11", (4) pp.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY 1957-10

Lincoln Memorial University Press/Winter 1957/ Vol. 56, No. 4/Lincoln Herald/A Magazine devoted to historical research in the field of Lincolniana and the Civil War, and to the promotion of Lincoln Ideals in America Education.

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 7" x 10", 37 pp., illus.

LINDSTROM, RALPH G. 1957-11

A Californian's/Collection of Lincolniana/by Ralph G. Lindstrom/President of the Lincoln Fellowship of Southern California./(Cover title).

Pamphlet, paper, 6" x 9", 9 pp.
Limited to 1000 copies. Printed by The Ward Ritchie Press, April 15, 1957.

LINCOLN FELLOWSHIP OF HAMILTON, CANADA 1957-12

The Lost Lincoln Order/by W. J. McCulloch/Lincoln's Humor/by Nathaniel Benson, M. A./being the substance of addresses /delivered before the Lincoln Fellowship of Hamilton/Canada at the Scottish Rite Club/on the evening of/February 12, 1957/(cover title).

Pamphlet, paper, 5½" x 8½", (12) pp.

FRIEND, HENRY C. 1957-13

Abraham Lincoln and the Court Martial of/Surgeon General William A. Hammond/Henry C. Friend/of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin Bar/(Caption title).

Pamphlet, paper, 8¼" x 11½", 9 pp., illus.
Reprinted from the Commercial Law Journal, March 1957.

OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE 1957-14

Lincolniana/A Catalogue of Historic/Autograph Letters and Documents/ from the Justin G. Turner/Collection of Americana / (device) / Exhibited at / Occidental College, Los Angeles/April 15-May 15, 1957/(Cover title).

Pamphlet, paper, 6" x 9", (10) pp.

OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE LIBRARY 1957-15

Dedication/Addresses/for the/F. Ray Risdon/Lincoln/Collection/(device)/Occidental College Library/April 15, 1957/(Cover title).

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 6" x 8¼", 19 pp. Printed in Los Angeles by The Ward Ritchie Press.

DELAPLAINE, EDWARD S. 1957-16

Lincoln's Companions/on the/Trip to Antietam/by/Edward S. Delaplaine/Lincoln Memorial University Press/Harrogate, Tennessee/1954.

Brochure, cloth, 7¼" x 10¼", 3-10 pp., fr., illus. Limited to 25 copies. Bound copy of article appearing in Lincoln Herald, Fall 1954, Vol. 56, No. 3.

REDWAY, MAURINE WHORTON & BRACKEN, DOROTHY KENDALL 1957-17

Maurine Whorton Redway/and/Dorothy Kendall Bracken/Marks of Lincoln on our Land/Hastings House/Publishers, New York.

Book, stiff bds., & cloth, 6¾" x 10", 120 pp., illus., price $3.75.

COOPER, JOHN SHERMAN 1957-18

85th Congress 1st Session/S. J. Res. 98/In the Senate of the United States/June 6, 1957/Mr. Cooper (for himself, Mr. Morton, Mr. Dirksen, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Capehart, and Mr. Jenner) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary/Joint Resolution/To establish a commission for the commemoration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln/(Caption title).

Folder, paper, 7½" x 22", 3 pp.

NIMTZ, F. JAY 1957-19

85th Congress/1st Session/H. J. Res. 351/In The House of Representatives/ June 6, 1957/Mr. Nimtz introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred/to the Committee on the Judiciary/Joint Resolution/To establish a Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission./(Caption title).

Pamphlet, paper, 7½" x 11", 7 pp.

ALLEN, LEO E. 1957-20

85th Congress/1st Session/H. J. Res. 358/In the House of Representatives/June 11, 1957/Mr. Allen of Illinois introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary/Joint Resolution/to establish a Lincoln sesquicentennial commission for the purpose of celebrating the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865), sixteenth President of the United States./(Caption title).

Folder, paper, 7½" x 11", 3 pp.

MACK, PETER F. JR. 1957-21

85th Congress/1st Session/H. J. Res. 357/In the House of Representatives/June 11, 1957/Mr. Mack of Illinois introduced the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary/Joint Resolution/To establish a commission for the celebration of the one hundred/and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln/(Caption title).

Folder, paper, 7½" x 11", 3 pp.

SCOTT, HUGH D. JR. 1957-22

85th Congress 1st Session/H. J. Res. 362/In the House of Representatives/June 11, 1957/Mr. Scott of Pennsylvania introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary / Joint Resolution / Authorizing an appropriation for the participation of the United/States in the preparation and completion of plans for the comprehensive observance of that greatest of all historic events, the sesquicentennial of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln. /(Caption title).

Folder, paper, 7½" x 11", 4 pp.

SCHWENGEL, FRED W. 1957-23

85th Congress/1st Session/H. J. Res. 372/In the House of Representatives/June 14, 1957/Mr. Schwengel introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred/to the Committee on the Judiciary/Joint Resolution/To establish a Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission./(Caption title).

Pamphlet, paper, 7½" x 22", 7 pp.

LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE FOUNDATION 1957-24

Lincoln Lore/Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation/Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor/Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana/Number 1432 June 1957 —Number 1435 September, 1957/(Caption title).

Folder, paper, 8½" x 11", 4 pp., illus. Number 1432, Most Significant Carton—February 12, 1957 . . . ;1433, Astrological Predictions . . . ; 1434, Campaign Biographies "Unauthorized" . . . ;1435, Elmer Ephraim Ellsworth . . .